

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 208

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Andrew Burnett of Paris.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Burnett; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burnett was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, John Burnett served with acumen and alacrity as a longtime businessman, insurance agent, and civic leader, earning the respect of his peers and clients alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, he was born April 15, 1964, to his loving parents, Peggy June Hunter Burnett and the late William Perry Bill Burnett, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, an Obion County native, Mr. Burnett graduated from Union City High School in 1982, and attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, from which he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing; and

WHEREAS, deeply involved in his community, John Burnett volunteered his time and energies to a number of civic organizations, dedicating to each his sought after leadership qualities. He served as the President of the Downtown Business Association, President of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, Treasurer and board member of the Rotary Club, and as member of the Paris Special School District Board; and

WHEREAS, he also committed his time to imparting his knowledge to children as a Little League baseball coach and standing as a member of the Boy Scouts of America West Tennessee Council Board of Reviews; a former Boy Scout, Mr. Burnett gained the level of Eagle Scout in his youth; and

WHEREAS, in his last months, he kindly led the Eagle ceremony for the son of this Senate sponsor and earned even more respect and gratitude when he did so in his usual, extraordinarily kind and cheerful way; and

WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman and hunter, Mr. Burnett was active in numerous outdoor activities, lending his time, effort, and passion to Delta Waterfowl and Ducks Unlimited, serving as the chairman of the local Paris-Henry County Ducks Unlimited Chapter; he was chosen as the Ducks Unlimited Tennessee Chairman of the Year in 2000, the same year his Chapter received the State's top sponsor award; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a member of the Administrative Board and Chairman of the Evangelism Committee; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Burnett was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Pam, and was the proud father of Kayla Brook Burnett and William J. Burnett; and

WHEREAS, a devoted brother and brother-in-law, Mr. Burnett will be fondly remembered by Perry and Linda Burnett, Wynn and Becky Burnett, Hunter and Donna Burnett, and David Smith; and

WHEREAS, he will also be sorely missed by his grandmother, Calvin Joyner Hunter; his nephews and niece, Luke Burnett, Ben Burnett, Braxton Burnett, Will Burnett, David Smith, and Anna Burnett; his father-in-law, J. W. Smith; his mother-in-law, Martha Smith; and a host of friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, he leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Andrew Burnett, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Burnett.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.